



Introduction: Comparative Philosophy in the Low Countries

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Comparative Philosophy in the Low Countries

The articles published in this special issue of *Philosophy East and West* are a selection of those accepted and presented at the conference on "The Possibilities and Application of Comparative Philosophy," held in Antwerp, Belgium, 16–18 September 1994. The conference was organized and sponsored by the School for Comparative Philosophy, together with the Departments of Oriental Studies and Philosophy at the Catholic University of Leuven. The occasion for this first international conference was the celebration of the fifth anniversary of the School, together with the publication of the magnum opus of its founder, Professor Ulrich Libbrecht, on the topic of comparative philosophy.

Katholieke Universiteit
Leuven, and Guest
Editor

The general mission of the School for Comparative Philosophy is to collect, compare, and contrast philosophies of different cultures for a wide-ranging audience of interested nonprofessionals attending from Belgium and the Netherlands. The School also wants to be a center for the gathering of scholars who work in the field of comparative philosophy by inviting them to join seminars, teach courses, and attend conferences. While some of these scholars individually teach comparative philosophy at different universities in the Low Countries, others are members of the "Dutch-Flemish Association for Intercultural Philosophy," founded in 1992 by Heinz Kimmerle of the Erasmus University of Rotterdam. There are also close contacts with other centers such as the International School for Philosophy (Utrecht), founded in 1916.

The articles presented in this issue are offered as the first fruits of this young but rapidly growing initiative to sow interest in comparative philosophy and join forces in its cultivation throughout the Low Countries.

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